

CONNECTIONS is an e-newsletter published by the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University, Marty Wiseman, PhD., Executive Director. It is intended for public officials, economic developers and community leaders, although anyone with an interest may subscribe to the list at no cost. Information is provided as a guide only, and is not guaranteed to be accurate. The mailing list is not sold or shared with anyone. To be removed from the list send an e-mail to Phil Hardwick at Phil.Hardwick@msstate.edu or REPLY to this e-mail and type UNSUBSCRIBE CONNECTIONS in the subject line.

February 16, 2007

Greetings:

For the past year, CONNECTIONS has been published on a monthly basis. Well, it seems that the world is moving faster than a monthly publication can keep up with. Sometimes you, our reader, can't wait a month. This issue is a good example. We have learned of grant or funding opportunities that you or someone in your community need to know about now. Consequently, look for CONNECTIONS to hit your email box more often, but on a more irregular basis. Sometimes that will be once a month; sometimes more often.

If you need more Stennis Institute information more often, our website - www.sig.msstate.edu - is the place. Not only does it contain the latest publications, it even offers constantly updated information from news organizations wherein the Institute is mentioned. Just click on "In the News."

We appreciate your interest and support of the Stennis Institute of Government. And now for that immediate information.

Phil Hardwick
Editor

EPA SEEKS COMMUNITIES IN NEED OF SMARTH GROWTH IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE : Are you trying to encourage specific smart growth techniques such as transit-oriented development? Or direct your state department of transportation investments to better support smart growth? The Development, Community, and Environment Division in U.S. EPA's Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation is responding to this need by issuing a request for applications for the Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program. Through this program, a team of multidisciplinary experts will provide free technical assistance to communities, regions, or states that want to develop in ways that meet environmental and other local or regional goals. Selected communities will receive assistance in the form of a multi-day visit from a team of experts organized by EPA and other national partners. Applications will be accepted until March 8, 2007. For more information and application materials, go to www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE: Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government has an unexpected pool of fellowship

money available for state and local government executives for the upcoming National Preparedness Leadership Initiative (NPLI) Executive Education program session.

The program, co-offered with Harvard's School of Public Health and the Center for Public Leadership, is designed to bring together representatives with responsibility for emergency planning, response and/or recovery from all levels of government. We welcome applications not just from traditional first responders and homeland security but also from departments of transportation, public works, agriculture, education, health, etc., as well as from elected officials. The National Preparedness Leadership Initiative (NPLI) program is scheduled from March 4 - 9, 2007 with a follow-up session scheduled from July 31 - August 3, 2007.

To learn more about the program please visit the NPLI website at www.ksg.harvard.edu/execed/npli.

For information about fellowship opportunities, please email Annette Wilson at annette_wilson@harvard.edu.

REAL ID establishes a de facto national ID by setting federal standards for driver's licenses and identification cards. It mandates that states maintain accessible databases of documents used to establish identity, but it does not include provisions for securing the data or controlling how the data on the card is used, nor does it include any federal funding for the states to make the change. More at http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/43123-1.html.

ARE YOU QUALIFIED? With the qualifying deadline looming on the horizon (March1), it might be useful to take a look at the qualifications for statewide public office in Mississippi.

Governor and Lieutenant Governor: A qualified elector, at least 30 years old, a citizen of the United States 20 years, and a resident of the state five years next preceding the day of election.

Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner: A qualified elector, at least 25 years old, and a citizen of the state five years next preceding the day of election.

Attorney General: A qualified elector, a practicing attorney for five years, at least 26 years old, and a citizen of the state five years.

Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce: A qualified elector with a general knowledge of agriculture, mining, manufacturing, statistics, and general industries and an experienced and practical agriculturist.

Public Service Commissioner: A qualified elector, at least 25 years old, a resident of the Supreme Court district in which he/she seeks election, and a citizen of the state five years preceding the day of election.

Transportation Commissioner: A qualified elector and a resident of the Supreme Court district in which he/she seeks election.

State Senator: A qualified elector of the state four years, at least 25 years old, and an actual resident of the district or territory represented for two years before the election.

State Representative: A qualified elector and resident citizen of the state four years, at least 21 years old, and a resident of the county or district represented for two years before the election.

Source: Mississippi Secretary of State Elections website - http://www.sos.state.ms.us/elections/qual_feemscands.asp.

CALENDAR:

February 19 - Noon: Stennis/Capitol Press Corps Luncheon, George Street Grocery. The speakers will be Dr. Charles Campbell, MSU Professor of Finance & Economics, and Judith Phillips, Stennis Institute Research Associate. The topic will be "Tobacco and Food Taxation: Policy Options in Mississippi." For more information contact Bobby Harrison, Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, 601 353-3119. or Philip Pierce, Stennis Institute, 601-331-1326. Cost is \$12. Pre-registration is NOT required.

February 20 - 11:45 A.M.: Mississippi Economic Forum, University Club. The speaker will be Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS), Candidate for President of the United States. For more information contact Philip Pierce, 601-331-1326. Cost is \$20 - Cash or check. Please make checks payable to: The Mississippi Economic Forum.

February 26-28 - Mississippi Delta Women's Leadership Conference, Delta State University, Gail Sheehy Keynote speaker. More info at www.mdwlc.deltastate.edu.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

"A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul."

- George Bernard Shaw

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